

Appl. No. 09/503,770
Amdt. Dated March 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Oct. 21, 2003

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Yu for the courtesy she extended in the recent telephonic interview on March 22, 2004.

Currently, claims 73-93 (independent claims 73 and 87) remain pending in the present application. The Examiner previously allowed claims 73-87, including independent claims 73 and 87. During the recent interview, however, the Examiner noted that dependent claims 85-86 and 90 should be amended to better clarify that the hydrogel comprises the recited percentage of the acrylate polymer. Claims ~~85-86~~ and 90 have thus been amended to correspond to the language used in independent claim 73. Moreover, claims 88-93 were previously objected to as being substantial duplicates of claims 76-81. As discussed in the recent interview, however, dependent claims 88-93 should have depended from independent claim 87. Thus, such claims have been amended to correct this minor error.

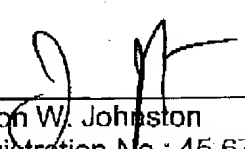
It is believed that the present application is in complete condition for allowance and favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Examiner Yu is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned, however, should any issues remain after consideration of this Amendment.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

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Respectfully submitted,

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